



## **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NATURAL RESOURCE & OPEN SPACE FOCUS GROUP REPORT January 2003**

Contained within this report are an Executive Summary, a detailed summary of the focus group discussion, and the results of the questionnaire.

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **A. Introduction**

Eugene boasts a wealth of natural resources—surrounded by wooded hills and settled on the Willamette River—the current parks and open space system includes a number of different habitat types and natural open space areas. One of the goals of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan is to develop effective policies to ensure these resources are well protected and managed into the future. As part of this effort, a focus group workshop was held on January 29, 2003. Thirty-eight representatives of area natural resource organizations and agencies attended the workshop, and 28 submitted written comments.

#### **B. Participants**

**Maeve Sowles**, Lane County Audubon  
**Becky Riley**, Friends of Rasor Park  
**David Moon**, Friends of Hendricks Park  
**Jerry Blakely**, Friends of Hendricks Park  
**Wendy McKenzie**, Nearby Nature  
**Bruce Newhouse**, NPSO/WREN  
**Pat Johnston**, WEW Project-BLM  
**John Koenig**, Native Plant Society of Oregon  
**Ed Alverson**, The Nature Conservancy  
**Whitey Lueck**, Eugene Tree Foundation  
**Dick Lamster**, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum  
**Andy Peara**, Nearby Nature/Whilamut Natural Area CPC  
**Steve Gordon**, LCOG  
**Jerry Morsello**, Citizen  
**Art Farley**, FRESH  
**Lori Segal**, 1000 Friends of Oregon  
**Kevin Matthews**, Citizens Nature Project and Southeast Neighbors  
**David Sonnichsen**, Whilamut Natural Area CPC  
**Bill Castillo**, OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
**Denise Kalakey**, Lane Council of Government  
**Jeff Ziller**, ODFW  
**Don Dewitt**

**Dan Gleason**  
**Bart Johnson**, University of Oregon, Landscape Architecture Dept.  
**Eric Wold**, City of Eugene, POS (West Eugene Wetlands)  
**Lorna Baldwin**, City of Eugene, POS (Stream Team)  
**Trevor Taylor**, City of Eugene, POS (Natural Resource Operations Coordinator)  
**Dal Ollek**, City of Eugene POS (Wetlands and Open Waterways)  
**Andrea Riner**, City of Eugene POS  
**Bob Blanchard**, City of Eugene POS (Wetlands and Open Waterways)  
**R. Paul Gordon**, City of Eugene POS (Open Space Maintenance)  
**Jack Long**, City of Eugene POS (Wetlands and Open Waterways)  
**Brian Elliot**, City of Eugene POS (Wetlands and Open Waterways)  
**Philip Richardson**, City of Eugene POS  
**Jesse Cary-Hobbs**, City of Eugene POS (Open Space Maintenance)  
**Scott Duckett**, City of Eugene POS (Wetlands and Open Waterways)  
**Sally McIntyre**, MIG, Inc. Consultants



### C. Overview

Scott Duckett, Wetlands and Open Waterways Manager, kicked-off the meeting and thanked the participants for their time and input. Sally McIntyre from Moore Iacofano, Goltzman, Inc. (MIG) facilitated the discussion. The participants offered their suggestions on a wide range of topics, including accessibility, preservation, volunteerism and education. They also completed a questionnaire. The following report draws on both the questionnaires and the verbal discussion.

### D. Key Findings

Throughout the discussion, a number of key findings emerged, such as:

- Protecting Eugene's natural resources and preserving natural open space **contribute significant benefits to residents, to the community, and to our environment**. The values of natural open space include improved mental and physical health, habitat protection, community identity, education and recreation, and protection of natural and cultural history.
- Protection of natural resource values requires a strong **open space acquisition program**. Acquisition priorities in Eugene should include Ridgeline sites, farmland, Metro NRS sites, the confluence of the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, and rare and endangered habitat types.
- Eugene's **natural open space program could be improved** by providing additional public information, revising planning and design policies to emphasize natural resource values, and utilizing appropriate parks and open space maintenance practices aimed at enhancing habitat, improving water quality, and minimizing impacts.
- Increasing community involvement in natural resource protection will allow the City to accomplish more with limited resources. Strategies to improve **community involvement in stewardship programs** included increasing volunteer coordination, developing partnerships with area natural resource organizations and schools, and developing an environmental education center.
- Participants expressed a general level of **dissatisfaction with the current parks and open space system** as it relates to natural resource values. To address this, the PROS Comprehensive Plan should increase the amount of protected open space, improve the geographic distribution of natural open space to provide equity throughout the community, and provide strategies to improve the natural resource values of both developed and natural public open space in Eugene.
- The PROS Comprehensive Plan should address the **following priorities for meeting natural resource objectives** in the parks and open space system:
  - Identify and acquire ecologically significant sites;
  - Foster stewardship through improved public information and education, including better signage, park maps, and an environmental education center;
  - Improve existing natural resource areas by providing needed resources to improve habitat and eliminate invasive species;
  - Develop strong management plans to identify natural resource priorities, such as oak habitat, riparian areas, and remnant native prairies;
  - Pursue adequate funding to accomplish natural resource priorities; and
  - Implement a regional scale trails and open space program, i.e., the Coast to Cascade Trail.



## II. DISCUSSION

A more detailed summary of the participant discussion items follows.

### A. Natural Resource Open Space Values

Participants cited a range of important values and benefits of natural open space protection, including:

- Providing educational opportunities for kids and adults;
- Contributing to spiritual, mental and physical health;
- Providing community involvement opportunities;
- Protecting a variety of habitat types, sizes and connecting habitat areas;
- Contributing to Eugene's visual and environmental identity;
- Providing places for unprogrammed recreation and education, exploration, play and fun;
- Preserving places for peace, quiet and stillness;
- Preserving important ecological benefits;
- Preserving part of our natural and cultural history; and
- Contributing to community livability.

### B. Acquisition Goals

All participants supported additional acquisition of natural open space, citing the following as priorities:

- Ridgeline trail open space;
- Farmland preservation;
- Sites included in the Metro Natural Resources Study; and
- Rare and endangered species habitat.

Specific acquisition targets identified included the confluence of the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers and the Southern Pacific Railway corridor west of Northwest Expressway. Participants also suggested that working with private property owners to protect important habitat without the need to obtain fee title to properties, enhancing habitat in existing active parks, and improving natural resource values on school sites would be desirable improvements to Eugene's natural environment.

### C. Natural Resource Improvements

Participants produced an exhaustive list of ideas about how Eugene's natural areas can be enhanced and improved through public information and education, planning and design, and parks and open space maintenance, including the following:

- Improve public information and education around natural resource values and benefits.
- Enhance natural resource values through planning design by:
  - Expanding school district partnership beyond athletic fields to include natural area management;
  - Addressing park and recreation open space through appropriate zoning
  - Ensuring balanced use of natural areas;
  - Reviewing City codes, such as the vegetation code, that work against natural area management;
  - Utilizing natural area management to address water quality issues;
  - Designing neighborhood walking routes that reflect natural resources of the area;
  - Creating working forests within the City;
  - Promoting the use of native plants and develop strategies to reduce or eliminate invasive species;
  - Reviewing standards for open space areas and developing site master plans for large open space areas;



- Being creative about finding funding;
  - Integrating nature and natural open space into the urban environment;
  - Providing incentives for private property owners and developers to improve habitat;
  - Reviewing the tree protection ordinance; and
  - Recognizing the significance of river corridors.
- Prioritize park and open space maintenance practices that meet natural resource objectives, such as:
    - Managing invasive plant and animal species, including Nutria and feral cats;
    - Reducing mowed areas in developed parks;
    - Scheduling needed mowing in natural areas based on habitat issues; and
    - Looking for opportunities to provide positive models for aesthetically pleasing natural areas, and to establish the City as a role model in natural area protection.

#### **D. Community Involvement**

Many participants support increasing outreach to the public to inform residents about natural resources in their neighborhoods and the development of effective public information tools. The following ideas to improve community involvement in natural area management were suggested by participants:

- Provide additional volunteer coordinators;
- Continue Stormwater Connections and Eugene Outdoors newsletters;
- Consider providing credits towards the storm water bill for low-impact landscapes;
- Develop a program for stewardship of natural areas;
- Develop a Volunteer Ranger program to provide interpretation and assistance in key locations, such as Spencer Butte;
- Include citizens in programs to monitor tree health;
- Be flexible in order to foster volunteer design and input;
- Provide programs to draw from resident experts as volunteers;
- Provide an educational component with volunteer programs;
- Expand adoption program to allow small groups to adopt natural areas within larger parks;
- Expand the native plant nursery;
- Develop a High School volunteer program; and
- Support and create environmental education center.

#### **E. Assessment of Open Space Program**

Participants were asked whether or not they were satisfied with the current mix of natural area parks and active parks in Eugene. While many people felt that significant progress had been made, overall the group stated that they were not satisfied with the quality and quantity of natural resource areas in Eugene. Through the discussion, a number of issues emerged, including:

- Address distribution of natural open space, i.e., north area is underserved;
- Reduce pressure on natural areas by providing adequate areas for active recreation where appropriate;
- Consider capacity and use issues, such as at Spencer Butte where heavy use is having a negative impact on ecological values;
- Clarify terminology, such as “open space”, “undeveloped” and “natural area”;
- Provide both neighborhood and community scale natural areas;
- Ensure open space management identifies appropriate goals and values based on a site’s physical constraints, i.e., size, location, access;
- Provide ways to get more kids to experience natural areas;
- Include working lands, such as farms and forests, in open space definitions; and
- Consider a “city-country fingers” open space pattern.



## F. Priorities

Participants identified the following natural resource management priorities:

- Identify and acquire ecologically significant sites;
- Foster stewardship through improved public information and education, including better signage, park maps, and an environmental education center;
- Improve existing natural resource areas by providing needed resources to improve habitat and eliminate invasive species;
- Develop strong management plans to identify natural resource priorities, such as oak habitat, riparian areas, and remnant native prairies;
- Pursue adequate funding to accomplish natural resource priorities; and
- Implement a regional scale trails and open space program, i.e., the Coast to Cascade Trail.

## III. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Eugene's natural areas are valued because of their outdoor recreation opportunities, contributions to physical and mental health, their role in preserving habitat for future generations and the ecological benefits that natural areas provide to the community. Many focus group participants thought that Eugene's existing natural areas could be improved. Improved management practices were most frequently mentioned as a desired improvement. Other suggestions included enhancing public information, partnerships and community involvement; acquiring additional natural areas; providing additional parks and recreation elements to improve recreation opportunities and relieve pressure from existing areas; and improving connectivity and developing larger natural areas. Most rated the condition of Eugene's existing natural areas as good.

Participants reported that community volunteers could be involved in enhancing natural areas through hands-on projects, by providing public information and by serving as volunteer park patrols. The need for an additional City volunteer coordinator and expanding community partnerships were also mentioned as ways to increase community involvement. Most participants are not satisfied with the current mix of natural area parks and active parks available in Eugene. More natural areas should be protected, including improving resource values in active parks and on school district properties, developing larger natural areas and improving connectivity, and enhancing natural resource management on private properties. According to focus group participants, improving natural resource management, enhancing public information and involvement, and acquiring and protecting significant sites are the three parks, recreation and open space improvements most needed in Eugene. Participants were concerned that adequate funding be provided to accomplish these goals.

A detailed summary of the questionnaire responses follows. The numbers in parentheses indicate how many people mentioned a particular statement within the written comments.

### 1) In what ways do you or your family value Eugene's open space and natural areas?

#### *Recreation and Volunteer Opportunities*

- Opportunities for various outdoor recreation opportunities (12) including fishing, hiking, nature walks, dog-walking (on leash!), photography, wildlife viewing, bird watching and bicycling
- Affordable and easily accessible recreation
- Opportunities to get involved
- Areas to be without negative impact

#### *Physical and Mental Health*

- Spiritual, mental and physical health (5)



- Peace, quiet and stillness (4)
- Scenic backdrop for our daily lives

#### *Habitat Protection*

- Habitat protection for native species and native habitats (4)
- Habitat for wildlife (3)
- Sound buffers (3)

#### *Environmental Education*

- Education about nature for children and adults (3)
- Areas to observe nature (2)

#### *Ecological Benefits*

- Enhanced water and air quality (2)
- Benefits from ecological services including flood control, water filtration, climate moderation, oxygen production and soil production

#### *Natural Area Characteristics*

- Variety, size and interconnectedness
- Wild, minimally developed areas
- Opportunities for biodiversity

#### *Historical Value*

- Ecological benefits and historical Willamette Valley remnants
- Human history and historical value

## **2) How can Eugene's open space and natural areas be improved or enhanced?**

#### *Management Practices*

- Decrease pesticide use (2)
- Provide more habitat of higher quality in existing parks (less grass)
- Schedule mowing and maintenance to not impact native plants
- Eliminate "tidy" management practices
- Provide trail markers and barriers where needed to slow habitat that is degrading Spencer Butte
- Pursue fire as a management tool
- Develop management plans for Ridgeline System, Morse Ranch, Spencer Butte and Willamette River
- Consider treating some of the forested parcels as working forests (i.e., harvest some trees) to make room for the forests' next generation
- Discourage use of bikes or vehicles in natural areas
- Realize that nature should be a neighborhood and next-door resource
- Focus improvements on needs of habitat versus human needs
- Promote the disposal of feral cats, nutria and bullfrogs

#### *Public Information, Partnerships and Community Involvement*

- Educate the public about the value of natural areas, and how their actions can improve or harm these areas (3)
- Develop interpretive signage to foster a sense of ownership with the community (3)
- Provide education on invasive species for regulation and eradication
- Include developers in planning of open space and natural areas
- Outreach to volunteer groups to help maintain these areas
- Provide a guide of these areas to the public
- Promote partnerships with the school districts to enhance their lands
- Partner with LTD to provide greater access to natural areas





#### *Natural Area Acquisition*

- Acquire as many acres as possible, even if they are not immediately manageable, especially those that connect existing parcels (5)
- Provide more expansive open space areas (3)
- Incorporate natural areas into our dense urban neighborhoods
- Continue efforts of land acquisition particularly near the confluence of the Willamette River, McKenzie River and along the ridgeline
- Provide more parks, open space and natural areas in the currently underserved North Eugene (River Road to Santa Clara)
- Continue acquisition of waterways, wetlands and open areas whenever possible

#### *Invasive Species*

- Improve habitat monitoring and removal of exotic species in existing areas (7)
- Manage existing natural areas to protect oak habitat and control invasive exotic species
- Remove Douglas Firs which are invading and degrading oak, pine and prairie habitats

#### *Habitat Protection*

- Ensure that the system protects a network of ecologically viable habitats for common and rare native plants and animals (2)
- Realize that each area is diverse in its own way; determine primary values on each site (2)
- Provide critical habitat protection

#### *Recreation Elements*

- Provide more mountain bike, ridgeline and wetland trails
- Continue the thoughtful combining of active recreation areas with passive areas
- Provide restrooms along bike paths
- Provide pedestrian access for as many patrons as possible
- Provide very passive, low impact, low volume recreational opportunities

#### *Connectivity and Larger Natural Areas*

- Think strategically about habitat connectivity
- Improve continuity through acquisition of wildlife corridors
- Create connections to regional open space like Mt. Pisgah, Coburg Hills and Fern Ridge
- Extend wildlife corridors

#### *Management of Private Lands*

- Provide incentives to private landowners and schools to protect and restore natural habitat (2)
- Control tree cutting on private land

#### *Funding*

- Provide a greater investment in native plant, wetland, forest and riparian restoration and education about these values
- Devote more resources to restoration and maintenance of natural areas

### **3) What are your top two priorities for improving Eugene's natural areas?**

- Acquire more natural areas (25)
- Improve habitat in existing natural areas and remove invasive species (23)
- Provide more passive recreation opportunities, such as trails and benches (4)
- Provide more displays describing values and features of natural areas (3)
- Inform community members about how their actions affect the environment (3)
- Increase volunteer participation in habitat and maintenance
- Develop acquire corridors adjacent to existing protected sites and along streams
- Connect the valley and bottom wetlands to ridgeline headwaters
- Provide a mitigation bank for riparian upland habitats



#### **4a) How would you rate the current overall condition of Eugene's open space areas?**

- Very good (2)
- Good (16)
- Fair (7)
- Poor (4)
- Very Poor
- Don't know

#### **4b) Please tell us why you rated the open space areas as you did.**

##### *Natural Resource Management*

- Better management is needed in most open space areas to reduce and eliminate invasive species. Also, human use plays a role in degradation (7)
- Maintenance activities are focused on keeping developed areas looking good, like mowing lawns, while natural areas are largely ignored (2)
- Monetary resources are not available or not allocated to restoring and preserving natural areas
- Ecological areas are fragmented, highly disturbed and increasingly weedy
- Limited recreational opportunities in high density urban environments causes high impact
- Poor dog and cat management
- Eliminate the degradation of night views
- Management, recreational and educational needs are not being met

##### *Natural Area Acquisition*

- Acquire more open space (3)
- Protect endangered species and rare native habitats that are still remaining in and around Eugene

##### *Public Information and Involvement*

- Provide a volunteer corps of citizen ambassadors to tell their neighbors why open space is important and to improve existing areas (2)
- Provide better signage and interpretation
- Educational value can be enhanced by community involvement

##### *Improve Connectivity*

- Provide better distribution of sites, keeping in mind connectivity (i.e., Santa Clara and North Eugene are underserved) (2)
- In order to mitigate against population growth, rising land prices and decreased options, the current open space areas need expansion of natural area networks.

##### *Other*

- Existing natural open space areas are in good ecological health, well-maintained and safe (3)
- More can be done to prevent development like the West Eugene Parkway
- Eugene provides easily accessible, diverse habitat
- City has made concerted effort to acquire additional natural areas and open space. West Eugene wetlands has been top priority and provided with considerable funding





**5) In what ways can community volunteers be involved in enhancing Eugene's open space and natural areas?**

*Hands-on Projects*

- Volunteers could be involved in additional hands on work such as monitoring, planting and invasive plant removal (13)
- Small construction, such as trails, benches, etc.
- Organize work parties like the ones that take place in Hendricks Park
- Promote Annual Blackberry Removal Day
- Opportunities for restoration and education

*Public Information/Enforcement*

- Volunteers could act as park guides and educators on habitat (7)
- Provide an on-site park host (2)
- Provide guides or rangers at heavily used parks like Spencer Butte Park to help keep human behavior in check (i.e., staying on designated trails) (2)
- Organize neighborhood education group walks in parks
- Patrol park to reduce vandalism and educate users
- Litter patrol

*Staffing and Partnerships*

- Overall increased support for the Nature Conservancy, Stream Team and related programs (3)
- Hire a volunteer coordinator (2)
- Opportunity to contract out with existing organizations that rely on volunteers (2)
- Adopt-a-Park program (2)
- Continue increased involvement in existing volunteer programs
- Provide incentives to volunteers

**6) Are you satisfied with the current mix of natural area parks and active parks available in Eugene? Why or Why not?**

Satisfied (9)

Not satisfied (19)

- Protect more natural areas prior to development, especially in underserved areas like North Eugene and keeping connectivity of sites in mind (7)
- Opportunity for merging natural resource areas with sport parks (2)
- Potential for increasing the size of large areas (larger is better ecologically) and connecting fragments via acquisition (2)
- More attention and resources needs to be paid to these areas to maximize value and benefit to the community
- Provide a large multifunction complex
- Provide more of both natural area parks as well as active parks
- Balance should be weighted more towards greater natural areas because of the benefits they provide for the ecosystem
- Quality of riparian areas is poor
- Partner with school districts to improve natural resource values in the community
- Enhance existing groomed areas for ecological value

**7) Which of the following recreation elements are most needed in Eugene's natural area?  
(Check all that apply)**

- Directional and interpretive signage (15)
- Pedestrian trails (12)
- Restrooms (9)
- Multi-use trails (8)
- Parking (5)
- View points (5)
- Additional recreation elements are not needed (5)
- Mountain bike trails (2)
- Picnic facilities (2)
- Other: Educational information about plants, habitats, wildlife, etc., in the natural area, cultural and historical signage, handicapped access, environmental education center, garbage cans, undeveloped water access.

**8) Have you observed or experienced any conflicts or safety issues when open space or natural areas are simultaneously utilized by different user groups (e.g. mountain bikers and pedestrians attempting to use the same trails at the same time, dogs off leash in picnic areas, etc.)? If so, how can these issues be resolved?**

*Human Impacts*

- Educate to move public interest above self interest
- Resolutions can be achieved through education and enforcement
- Conflict with human impact on our high ecological value natural areas
- Human occupation of river banks with anglers and trail users
- Recent problem with teens hanging out and throwing bottles at turtles in Amazon Park along new bike path section
- Don't continue to build high use paths where wildlife resides
- Illegal camping

*Bicycles*

- Commuter bikes and pedestrians along river and small trails need to be separated
- Bicyclists vs. pedestrians
- Mountain bikers can be dangerous in areas where walkers, hikers and children are on trails
- Mountain bikes have caused serious erosion and safety problems on part of the ridgeline trail

*Hunting*

- Hunting/gun shooting issue in West Eugene Wetlands
- Hunter firing shotgun within the Meadow View Prairie bike path area. Oregon state police suggested the "No Fire Zone" is hard to enforce

*Dogs*

- Mt. Baldy has an off-leash dog problem and mountain bike versus pedestrians issue
- Off-leash dogs are generally a problem in parks (i.e., chase wildlife and scare/ threaten kids); specific signage may address this issue
- Continue education and patrolling from Lane County Animal Patrol or deputizing of community groups
- Enforce leash laws vigorously



#### *Other*

- Duck-geese problem in Alton Baker Park
- Balance should be weighted more towards greater natural areas because of their benefits they provide for the ecosystem
- Potential for increasing the size of large areas (larger is better ecologically) and connecting fragments via acquisition
- Many acres of forest lost due to blow down

### **9) What three parks, recreation and open space improvements are most needed in Eugene today?**

#### *Management*

- Remove and control of invasive plant and animal species (8)
- Restore native plants and natural areas (4)
- Provide greater attention to trail management and habitat
- Ensure pedestrian trail maintenance
- Beware of "Clean up" efforts on our best natural park
- Provide adequate garbage maintenance
- Encourage and provide management of oak habitat
- Promote mitigation banks for riparian areas
- Analyze and form better long term view of existing open spaces and how they change through time
- Restore native plant habitats
- Allow existing waterway systems to meander (i.e., especially in Amazon Creek in South Eugene)
- Maintain less grass and more good habitat for wildlife
- Restore small waterways
- Increase native plant species inventory
- Control abuses in existing parks (homeless camping, drug-use, etc.)
- Think ahead and plant new forests to develop into future forests

#### *Public Information and Involvement*

- Provide interpretive, directional and educational signage (i.e., Spencer Butte) (3)
- Provide an environmental/ Interpretive education center (3)
- Educate public of value of natural resources, restoration and preservation (2)
- Promote annual "Blackberry Removal Day"
- Provide signage at entrances to open space areas, which in turn will foster stewardship.
- Improve signage at existing parks and provide trail maps
- Provide interpretation, signage, and outreach about the wetlands and other important ecological areas

#### *Specific Sites for Acquisition and Protection*

- Acquire McKenzie/Willamette confluence (2)
- Provide Cascade Coast Trail
- Connect Ridgeline trail system around the City
- Protect the Willow Creek Corridor
- Protect and restore the Willamette River Corridor
- Protect ridge to Amazon habitat corridors
- Protect Amazon Headwaters
- Provide better education and access for West Eugene residents
- Provide open space in underserved areas (River Road-Santa Clara)
- Protect Spencer Butte, especially the summit, which is rapidly degrading
- Promote improvements scheduled for Delta Roads



### *Large Natural Areas and Connectivity*

- Encourage City to acquire significant sites soon before they become unavailable, especially large tracts and connecting parcels (9)
- Add additional land to greenbelts

### *Recreation Elements*

- Improve pedestrian trails and maintenance (2)
- Provide more passive recreation (2)
- Provide more trails to relieve popular sites (i.e., Spencer Butte)
- Construct more trails, especially educationally oriented
- Provide access for wildlife viewing and enjoyment
- Provide more small playgrounds
- Provide more dog parks

### *Funding and Partnerships*

- Increase maintenance funding for uplands
- Partner with other agencies to provide funding
- Find funding to provide more resources for management and restoration
- Provide funding for monitoring natural areas and significant restoration projects
- Examine nexus between 4J/Bethel School Districts and how students could be involved and educated through volunteer programs
- Provide incentives for private property owners
- Continue to be creative about funding from as many sources as possible

## **10) Additional comments**

### *Funding and Partnerships*

- I continue to be concerned about more acquisitions without adequate budgets to manage and maintain the resources
- Form a group of citizen volunteers to promote the area's natural assets in conjunction with neighborhood groups; present reports at every meeting
- Look at nexus between 4J/ Bethel School Districts and POS in terms of school grounds and how they are managed, that they would have natural areas developed on their grounds, how students could be involved and educated through volunteer programs. How classes could be designed around natural area management
- Incentives for private landowners to preserve what they have or removal of disincentives that might exist
- Need to creative about obtaining funding from as many sources as possible
- Fund maintenance of our natural areas
- I believe we have the staff and knowledge to improve the open space. We need more money (funding) to purchase more land, and then develop the natural aspects
- It seems the last open space bond was diverted to suburban recreational facilities much more than voters expected. Funding needs to go to protection first and enhancement second. What fails to be protected may never be enhanced

### *Other*

- We need to take advantage of one-time opportunities to acquire large chunks/corridors that could be converted to open space/natural areas, e.g., the railway corridor that parallels NW Expressway. As the rails are removed, we need to consider converting that enormous area to a superb, green corridor that penetrates from the outskirts almost to the cities center!
- How about considering areas like the Beacon Hill/Prairie Road sewage facility
- Priority protection and expansion/restoration of Willamette River Riparian Corridor
- Improve existing natural areas trail systems; upgrade trails with stone all-weather surfaces

*Prepared by MIG, Inc., Eugene, Oregon*

